

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 22, 2005. Claims 12-17 are the only claims are presented for examination. Claims 12, 16 and 17 are in independent form, and have been amended to clarify further what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,185,661 (Ng). In addition, Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Ng* in view of U.S. Patent 6,058,207 (Tuijn et al.), and Claims 14 and 15, as being obvious from *Ng* in view of the cited Berns publication.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to an image processing method which maps a first color gamut into a second color gamut, in which first sample points in the first color gamut are set, and second sample points are obtained by mapping the first sample points to the second color gamut. A plurality of gradation lines are set by using the plural first sample points, and the gradation lines are mapped by using the second sample points corresponding respectively to the plural first sample points. An input color then is mapped into the second color gamut by using the mapped gradation line. In addition, Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the set gradation lines indicate a locus of color change in the first color gamut (see page 18, line 25, through page 19, line 5, and Fig. 19).<sup>1</sup>

In the *Ng* system, the graph shown in Fig. 7(b) of *Ng* shows the correspondence between pre-conversion color and post-conversion color (see col. 7, lines 24-43). This does not teach or suggest a gradation line that indicates a locus of color

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<sup>1</sup> It is to be understood of course that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any particular embodiment(s) that may be referred to.

change within a single color gamut, such as the gradation lines that are set in the method recite din Claim 12. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that *ng* does not suggest setting plural gradation lines as recited in Claim 12, and that that claim is allowable over *Ng*.

Independent Claims 16 and 17 apparatus and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 12, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 12.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

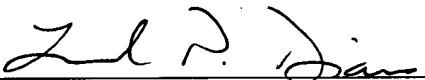
This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. At the very least, however, it is believed that the formal rejections have been overcome, and cancellation of Claims eliminates all issues relating to those claims. Accordingly, In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he she is

respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Leonard P. Diana  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No.: 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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